

Message Text

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TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJ: CSCE: HUMAN CONTACTS -- MEANING OF "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS" AS USED IN TRAVEL TEXT

REF: STATE 86451

1. AS REQUESTED BY REFTEL, WE HAVE SOUGHT BETTER DEFINITION OF THE TERM "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS," AS USED IN AUSTRIAN AND SOVIET VERSIONS OF PARA 5 OF TRAVEL TEXT. NEITHER AUSTRIANS NOR SOVIETS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE A VERY PRECISE DEFINITION OF WHAT THEY MEAN BY THIS TERM, BUT DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE WORD "SOCIAL" WAS INTRODUCED IN BOTH TEXTS WHEN SOVIETS AGREED (AT INSISTENCE OF USEL) TO MODIFY THE FORMULATION THEY ORIGINALLY PROPOSED FOR THIS PHRASE: "AND AMONG OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE AIMED TOWARD THE REINFORCEMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG THE PARTICIPATING STATES." THE PHRASE WHICH NOW APPEARS IN THE AUSTRIAN AND SOVIET TEXTS-- "SOCIAL AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS"--IS THUS INTENDED AS A COMPROMISE

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WHICH MAY HELP TO MEET SOVIET DESIRES AND YET BE

GENERAL ENOUGH TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO WESTERN COUNTRIES.

2. THE WORD WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE USED IN THEIR
ORIGINAL RUSSIAN TEXT--"OBSHCHYESTVYENNIY ORGANIZATSIIY"
--PROBABLY SHOULD MORE PROPERLY BE TRANSLATED INTO
ENGLISH AS "PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS," ALTHOUGH THE
DICTIONARY PERMITS TRANSLATION AS "SOCIAL". THE
SOVIETS ADMIT THIS AND SAY THE TERM IS MEANT TO
DESCRIBE "ANY ORGANIZATION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC," WHICH
WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD INTERPRET AS COVERING, INTER
ALIA, SO-CALLED "MASS ORGANIZATIONS," INCLUDING LABOR
GROUPS. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IN AMERICAN USAGE
"SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS" USUALLY REFERS TO FRATERNAL
AND OTHER CLUBS WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS THE PLEASURE
THE MEMBERS GAIN FROM MEETING WITH ONE ANOTHER. WE
HAVE NOTED THAT THE TERM MAY THUS APPEAR SOMEWHAT FRIVOLOUS
IN THIS TEXT, BUT HAVE NOT MADE AN ISSUE OF IT. IN
FACT, WE BELIEVE THE USE OF THIS TERM WOULD HELP TO
PLACE EMPHASIS, AT LEAST IN THE WESTERN LANGUAGE
VERSIONS, ON THE HUMAN CONTACTS ASPECT OF THE TRAVEL
TEXT.

3. IN VIEW OF THIS BACKGROUND, WE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY BOTHERED BY THE TERM "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS,"
AND HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALLOW US THE FLEXIBILITY
TO ACCEPT THIS TERM IF IT PROVES USEFUL TO DO SO IN
ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE TRAVEL TEXT AS A
WHOLE.

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